

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04075 131046Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 12, LT/COL JOSE DURET, MEMBER SPANISH NAVY LEGAL STAFF AND OF NAVY COMPONENT OF NEGOTIATING TEAM MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) DURET EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT WHILE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WAS HELPFUL AND A POSITIVE GESTURE, IT REALLY DID NOT CHANGE BASIC SITUATION WITH REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS.

(B) DURET THOUGHT ULTIMATE EFFECT OF NATO DIPLOMATIC EFFORT WAS NEGATIVE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FROM SPANISH POINT OF VIEW HAD NOTHING BEEN SAID AT ALL. IF 60 PERCENT IN NATO WERE OPPOSED TO SPANISH BEFORE 80 PERCENT WERE NOW.

(C) REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS, DURET OPINED THAT SPANISH WERE HOPING FOR SOME FORMULA WHICH COULD BE PUBLICLY ACCEPTABLE NOW. HE EMPHASIZED HIS VIEW THAT THIS WAS PERHAPS "LAST CHANCE" FOR US, SINCE WHATEVER GOVT OR REGIME ASSUMES POWER AFTER FRANCO, THERE WILL BE PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR ELIMINATING US PRENCE. HENCE IT WAS IN US INTEREST TO CONSUMMATE AGREEMENT BEFORE TRANSITION TAKES PLACE. (D) ONLY FORMULA HE COULD THINK OF AT THIS MOMENT WAS GRADUAL REDUCTIONS LOOKING TOWARD TOTAL TERMINATION OF US PRESENCE IN SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, SAY TWO OR THREE YEARS. HE THOUGHT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MADRID 04075 131046Z

THAT BARRING ACHIEVEMENT OF POLITICAL OBJECTIVES SPANISH HAD HOPED

TO GAIN, ONLY FEASIBLE FORMULA WOULD INCLUDE A JOINT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDUCTIONS OVER SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, WITH ULTIMATE DATE FOR TERMINATION OF ALL FACILITIES. IN MEANTIME, IN CONDITIONS CHANGED, SUCH AS NEW POSSIBILITIES REGARDING NATO, A NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED ALTERING THIS FORMULA AND PROVIDING FOR CONTINUED US FACILITIES BEYOND THE PREVIOUS TERMINAL POINT.

(E) DURET MADE IT CLEAR THAT SPANISH MILITARY PROBABLY NOT HAPPY WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY NAVY AND ARMY WHICH WERE MORE LINKED TO US THROUGH PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SPANISH AIR FORCE HAD OTHER ALTERNATIVES SINCE IT HAD DEPENDED ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR SOME OF ITS HARDWARE, FRENCH, FOR EXAMPLE. DURET ALSO NOTED THAT REDUCTION OVER SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME AS OPPOSED TO CLOSURE OF FACILITIES IN NEAR FUTURE APPEARED TO BE ACCEPTABLE, ALTHOUGH FORMULA SHOULD PROVIDE FOR SPECIFIC TIME FRAME FOR EVENTUAL CLOSURE OF ALL FACILITIES.

2. COMMENT: EMBOFF DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS PROS AND CONS OF DURET'S POINTS, SINCE MEETING WAS SET UP TO ELICIT HIS OBSERVATIONS TO EXTENT THEY MIGHT BE REFLECTIVE SPANISH VIEWS AS A WHOLE. AS HE CALLED RIGHT AFTER MEETING IN HIGH GENERAL STAFF, HIS VIEWS MAY CONTAIN FLAVOR OF WHAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AMONG SINCE LAST SESSION.
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